UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/164
S/1998/600
1 July 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 54 of the preliminary list*
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the final communiqué adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its sixty-seventh session, held at the seat of its secretariat in Riyadh on 28 June 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 54 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Final communiqué adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its sixty-seventh session, held in Riyadh on 28 June 1998

The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its sixty-seventh session on 28 June 1998 at the seat of its secretariat, His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait and Chairman-in-Office of the Council, presiding. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman; and

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Bin Ibrahim al-Hegelan, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also participated in the meeting.

The Ministerial Council reviewed measures previously taken and follow-up action to the recommendations and decisions adopted by its ministerial and technical committees since the sixty-sixth session in the political, military and economic fields and on social affairs, questions relating to information and security-related developments.

Progress made in cooperation

The Council was informed of the measures, recommendations and decisions adopted for the promotion of joint economic action by the GCC States by a number of its ministerial and technical committees. It reviewed the decisions taken by the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation at its forty-seventh meeting on the classification of goods and the standardization of the customs tariff for member States vis-à-vis the rest of the world as a preliminary step towards the establishment of a customs union. The Council expressed satisfaction at the progress made in that regard. It also reviewed the action taken by the Committee on measures for the implementation of the decisions of the Supreme Council on promoting a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency, and it endorsed the agreements reached with regard to value added, national ownership and measures for the refurbishing of factories in the Gulf States. The Ministerial Council recommended that the paper entitled "The general framework

of the GCC population strategy", on which agreement had been reached by the Planning and Development Committee at its sixth (special) meeting, should be submitted to the Supreme Council for its endorsement. The Council took note of the results of the ninth (special) meeting of the Committee on Agricultural and Hydrological Cooperation as they concerned the projects for comprehensive surveys of the shrimp fisheries and of benthic fish stocks, and it also noted the recommendations relating to the rationalization of water use.

The Council received a report on negotiations and discussions with States and international economic groupings. It heard briefings on the visit of the general coordinator of negotiations to the European Commission and on the visit of a European Commission delegation to the GCC secretariat for discussions on a free-trade agreement with the European Union. It gave instructions for the preparation of a draft Gulf proposal for submission to the European side and directed that the negotiations on the free-trade agreement should proceed.

In the context of social affairs, the Council considered communications from a number of its ministerial and technical committees dealing with education, human resources, health, culture and youth on the promotion of joint action in these fields. It endorsed the recommendations made in their regard.

The Council reviewed a secretariat memorandum concerning progress made in military and security-related cooperation among member States, and it expressed satisfaction at the steps taken in this field since its last session. It decided to submit the relevant recommendations to the Supreme Council. It further reviewed a secretariat report on cooperation in the field of information, and it decided to promote joint action in that context.

Political affairs

Implementation by Iraq of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Council discussed developments in connection with the implementation by Iraq of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, and it affirmed its support for the efforts of the Special Commission for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. It called upon Iraq to cooperate fully with the Special Commission and to enable the Special Commission to perform its tasks in accordance with the modalities set forth in the Security Council resolutions relating to its work.

The Council reaffirmed that Iraq must implement all the other relevant Security Council resolutions without exception and without imposing conditions, particularly those relating to the release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and detainees, that it must comply with resolution 949 (1994) by refraining from any hostile or provocative action against neighbouring States and that it must return the Kuwaiti property seized. Only thus could the sanctions imposed on Iraq be mitigated and the suffering of the Iraqi people relieved.

The Council noted with great concern and indignation the statements made by the Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq casting doubt on Security Council

resolution 833 (1993) concerning the demarcation of the boundaries between Kuwait and Iraq. It affirmed its rejection of those statements in view of the great danger they posed for the security and stability of the region and the threat they represented to the security and sovereignty of Kuwait. The Council called upon the international community to adopt concrete deterrent measures in order to counter Iraq's constant defiance of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Council reiterated the view expressed in its previous communiqués that Iraq must acknowledge that the invasion and occupation of Kuwait were in violation of the inter-Arab and international covenants, the international rule of law, the Pact of the League of Arab States, the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League and the Charter of the United Nations. It also renewed its call to Iraq to take the necessary steps to demonstrate its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and the States of the region by word and deed so as to ensure the security and stability of all the States of the region.

The Council expressed the hope that the plan for the distribution of basic humanitarian needs to the Iraqi people would be given effect as soon as possible in implementation of Security Council resolution 1153 (1998), which had the aim of mitigating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

In this context, the Council stressed the firmly established and well known positions it had taken with respect to the preservation of the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and relations with Iran

(a) The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council reviewed developments with regard to the issue of Iran's occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates, in the light of the visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Abu Dhabi on 23 May 1998. It expressed its optimism at the results achieved by that visit and its hope that continued contacts between the two countries would be conducive to a positive response by the Iranian Government to the sincere appeals made to it to pursue peaceful means to resolve the ongoing dispute concerning the islands in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice. At the same time, the Council stressed its established position affirming the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands and its unconditional support for all the peaceful measures it is taking to re-establish that sovereignty. It again urges the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the islands, to rescind all unilateral measures taken in the past and remove all of the installations built, and to resolve the dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice.

(b) Relations with Iran

The Council considered developments in connection with its relations with Iran in the light of the positions taken by its member States on the basis of their conviction that it is important to maintain good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, the non-use or threat of use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Council noted that there were encouraging indications, as exemplified by increased contacts and bilateral meetings between GCC member States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it expressed its optimism that such meetings and official visits would have positive results that would strengthen mutual trust, establish good faith and lead to the peaceful resolution of outstanding differences, and primarily the issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, with a view to ensuring security and stability in the region.

The peace process in the Middle East

In accordance with the firmly established positions taken by the GCC member States with regard to the peace process in the Middle East, the Council reviewed ongoing developments in this regard. It expressed deep concern that Israel was maintaining its position of intransigence and of refusing to implement the agreements concluded with the Palestinian National Authority or to comply with the undertakings given to Arab and international parties. It considered that Israel's attitude had thwarted international and Arab efforts to salvage the peace process from the critical situation in which it found itself.

The Council expressed its unconditional rejection and condemnation of the Israeli Government's decision to expand the geographical boundaries of Jerusalem and alter its demographic composition in violation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. It also condemned Israel's policy of expanding its settlements in the occupied Palestinian Arab territory and its decision to establish an armed militia consisting of Israeli settlers. The Council considers that such actions are in flagrant violation of the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference, of all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and, in particular, of resolution 252 (1968), in which the Security Council considers that Israel's actions with regard to Jerusalem are invalid.

The Ministerial Council commended the international consensus on the need for the peace process to proceed on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference. It affirmed that Israel must be required to implement the agreements concluded with the Palestinian National Authority and to resume negotiations with Syria from the point at which they were suspended and that there must be full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the boundary line of 4 June 1967 as well as from southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In this connection, the Council renewed its call to the co-sponsors of the peace process, and in particular to the United States of America, to redouble the efforts being made to salvage the peace process and to avert failure. It further called upon the United States Administration to take urgent action to overcome the obstacles to the peace process and to announce officially its plan for redeployment in the West Bank. On that basis, the Council expressed its conviction that there must be thorough preparation for any Arab summit meeting if it was to succeed in helping to salvage the peace process.

The Council renewed its call to the European Union and its member States to step up their efforts to ensure a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and it commended in this connection the position taken by the European Union with regard to the peace process in the Middle East and its continued support to the Palestinian National Authority.

Elimination of weapons of mass destruction

The Council reiterated its call to the international community for action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council affirmed once again that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and submit all of its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.

In this context, the Council considered the recent developments in the situation between India and Pakistan as represented by the nuclear tests recently carried out by both countries. While it expresses great sadness and concern at this arms race between the two countries and at its dangerous consequences for the security and stability of the region, the Council calls upon the two countries to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to resume their dialogue on all outstanding questions so as to promote peace and stability in the region. In this connection, the Council commended the Pakistani Government for its wise decision to halt its nuclear tests unilaterally and it expressed the wish that the Indian Government would emulate its neighbour with a view to achieving security and stability in South Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

The armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia

The Council expressed great sadness at the armed conflict under way between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which had left many dead and wounded on both sides. It urged the two countries to halt the military confrontation between them, to engage in dialogue in order to settle their boundary disputes by peaceful means, to respond positively to the calls being made for mediation in order to contain their differences within the framework of the historical relations between the two neighbours, and to utilize their capacities in order to promote their development and ensure security and stability in the region.

The situation in Kosovo

The Council expressed its condemnation of the aggressive practices and of the policy of expulsion, starvation and ethnic cleansing being pursued by Serbian forces against the Muslim inhabitants of the Kosovo region. It calls upon the international community to do everything in its power to halt the inhuman actions being taken against this people so that the inhabitants of the Kosovo region may enjoy security and stability and the right to a life of freedom and dignity.

Extremism, violence and terrorism

The Council affirms once more that extremism, violence and terrorism are global phenomena that are not restricted to any particular people or region, and it reaffirms its commitment to its unconditional repudiation and rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism from whatever source they may come. The Council further expresses its regret that certain States are continuing to shelter extremist terrorist elements on grounds of protecting human rights. The Council reiterates its call to those States to distinguish between such rights and terrorist practices that threaten the security, integrity and stability of States and place their citizens and residents in the greatest jeopardy. It also urges these States, once again, to prevent such elements and extremist and terrorist groups from using their territory and exploiting their laws in order to obtain funding and weapons and from engaging in any other activities that threaten the security and integrity of States.